



Reducing Drug Use in America

Office of National Drug Control Policy December 2008

Today President Bush and Director John Walters released new data demonstrating significant success reducing drug availability and use. At a roundtable discussion with national leaders in drug use prevention, treatment, and enforcement, the President highlighted results from the University of Michigan's Monitoring the Future Study (MTF), the DEA's System to Retrieve Information from Drug Evidence (STRIDE), and workplace drug tests performed by Quest Diagnostics, and recognized meeting participants for their dedication to reducing America's drug problem. Taken together, the data, which cover a broad spectrum of key indicators, offer strong evidence of the effectiveness of a counterdrug strategy which balances supply and demand reduction.

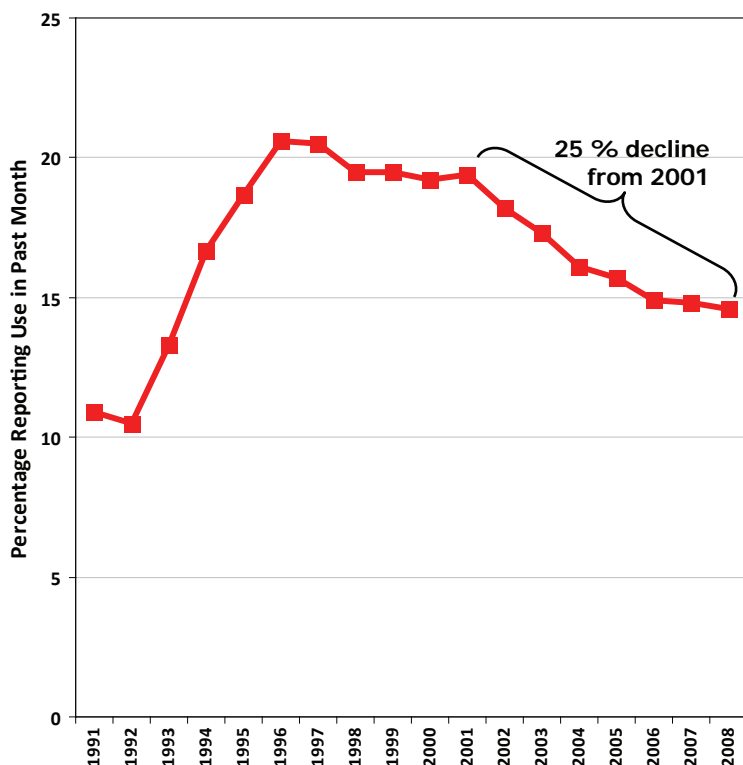
Fewer Young People in America are Using Illegal Drugs

- Over the past seven years, there has been a 25% reduction in the number of young people using illegal drugs
- This reduction means that there are approximately 900,000 fewer young people using drugs today compared to 2001

Youth Use of Marijuana, Meth, Heroin, and Cocaine Drops Dramatically

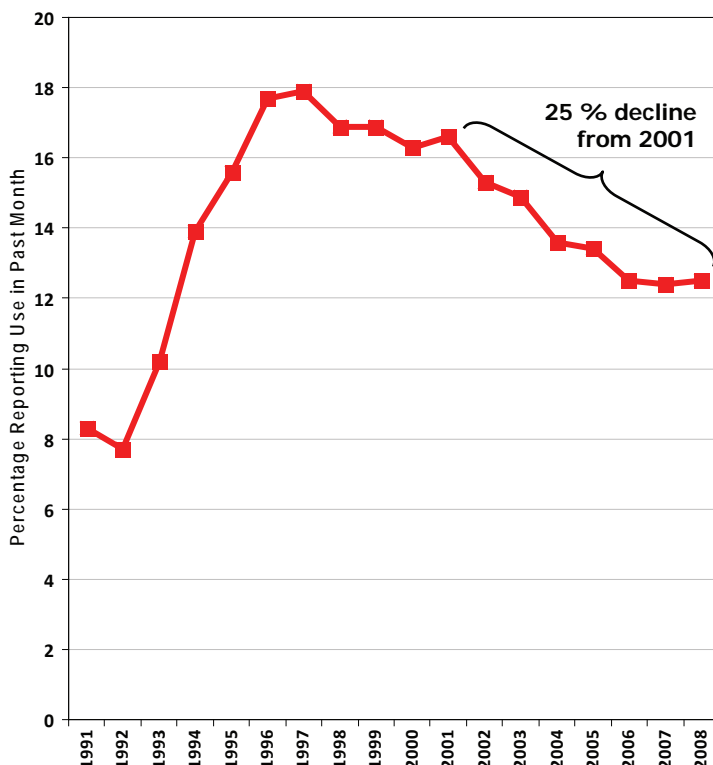
- Over the same period of time, marijuana use has dropped by 25% for past-month use
- Current use of methamphetamine by youth has fallen 50%
- From 2007-2008, past-year cocaine use among youth decreased 15%

Teen Drug Use Is Down Sharply from 2001



Source: 2008 Monitoring the Future study – combined 8th, 10th, and 12th graders (December 2008).

Teen Marijuana Use Is Down Sharply from 2001



Source: 2008 Monitoring the Future study – combined 8th, 10th, and 12th graders (December 2008).



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LSD, Steroids, & Ecstasy Use by Young People Also Continue to Decline

- Hallucinogens, particularly LSD and MDMA (Ecstasy) use among young people, are down dramatically over the past seven years. Hallucinogens overall are down by more than a third - 39% - for past-month use
- LSD use is down by more than half (53%) for past-month use
- Ecstasy use is down 50% for past-month use
- Steroid use is down 33% for past-month use

Alcohol and Tobacco Use are Down

- Youth alcohol use overall is down 21% for past-month use
- Past-month cigarette use also is down 38%

Adult Use of Cocaine is Decreasing

- According to Quest Diagnostics, there has been an unprecedented 38% decline in the number of positive cocaine tests among the U.S. workforce between June 2006 and June 2008
- According to STRIDE, the price per pure gram of cocaine has increased 89 percent, from \$97 to \$183 between January 2007 and September 2008. During the same period of time, the purity of cocaine decreased 32 percent, from 67 percent pure to 46 percent pure

Progress Can Reverse if Anti-Drug Attitudes Soften

- According to MTF, trends in perceived harmfulness (those saying there is "great risk") of some individual drugs moved in the wrong direction between 2007 and 2008 among 8th and 12th graders.
- Among 8th graders, there was weakening in perceived harmfulness for trying marijuana once or twice (down 6%), smoking marijuana occasionally (down 4%), and smoking marijuana regularly (down 3%); taking inhalants regularly (down 4%); trying one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (down 9%).
- Unlike last year, disapproval ("disapprove" or "strongly disapprove") of people who use drugs weakened for selected drugs among 8th and 12th graders. Specific drugs include: trying marijuana once or twice (down 3%), smoking marijuana occasionally (down 2%), and trying inhalants once or twice (down 2%) among 8th graders, and smoking marijuana regularly (down 4%) and taking heroin occasionally (down 2%) among seniors.

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